

Appl. No. 09/627,591  
Amdt. dated Apr. 21, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 21, 2004

### REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of dependent claims 5-8, 15, 33-and 36, if rewritten in independent form.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 9-14, 16, 32, and 40-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,025 to Sullivan, and optionally in view of the Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology or the Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering.

Claims 1 and 32 have been rewritten to incorporate the limitations previously set forth in allowed dependent claims 5 and 33, respectively, and claims 5 and 33 have been canceled. For economy of prosecution, claims 9-14, 16, 33, 38, and 40-46 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering moot the obviousness rejections. Additionally, dependent claims 6, 15, 34, and 35 have been amended to depend from allowable claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, 15, 32, and 33-36 are now in condition for allowance.

The foregoing amendments and remarks should place this application in condition for allowance. If any matters remain outstanding after consideration of this Amendment that the Examiner believes might be expedited by a telephone conference

Appl. No. 09/627,591  
Amdt. dated Apr. 21, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 21, 2004


with Applicants' representative, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Date: April 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James R. Brueggemann  
Registration No. 28,286

333 South Hope Street, 48th Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Telephone: (213) 620-1780  
Facsimile: (213) 620-1398